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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

21 February 1963

The new regime in Iraq, having repressed both Communist and Qasimist opponents, is turning to somewhat longer range problems, such as that of negotiating with the Kurds. Differences within the government are likely to become more pronounced, especially since non-Baathists are showing resentment over the predominant role the Baathists have taken thus far.

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

The new Iraqi regime, having repressed Communist and Qasimist opponents, faces a number of other, somewhat longer range problems which require immediate attention. Among the most important of these is its relations with Mulla Mustafa al-Barzani's rebellious Kurds. A settlement of Kurdish relations with the Iraqi state is likely to be difficult, since the country's new rulers must continue to pose as Arab nationalists who will not sacrifice Arab "interests."

The regime has taken pains to pull a blanket of "positive neutralism" over its naked repression of local Communists. Foreign Minister Shabib and Minister of State Hazim Jawad in press conferences have stressed the country's excellent relations with the USSR and alleged that the quarrel with local Communists is that they were Qasim supporters. The regime has ignored broadcasts by the clandestine Peyk-e Iran radio in Leipzig. This radio, operated by the Iranian Communists, has called for a continued Kurdish rebellion and has characterized the Iraqi regime as "an oppressive, blood-thirsty, and atrocious enemy" brought to power by a "black fascist coup."

Non-Baathist elements have expressed some resentment over the Baathist predominance in the

government, and sharp disagreement within the regime is likely once its component groups begin to discuss longer range aims and policies. The fear of a resurgence of the Communists will tend to keep Baathist and non-Baathist nationalists from a complete falling out, however.



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